Library 2014 Overview

Our library is a bustling, busy and happy hub with over 28,240 patrons coming through our doors throughout the 2014 school year. We served 1040 classes in our library this year with an average of 706 students a week.

Our library is staffed by Mrs Vera Kobeleff and Mrs Poppy Kougellis who share the responsibilities of teaching as well as designing the library lessons. Mrs Kobeleff teaches most of our students that visit the library and also assists Mrs Kougellis who co-ordinates the K-6 Premier’s Reading Challenge and completes most of the administration tasks involved with the running our library and library based events.

We also have our library assistant Mrs Gail Armstrong & Ms Donna Beale who helps in the library one day a week in all aspects of book processing, covering and repairing. Their work in these areas is crucial as their efforts help keep the library running smoothly and efficiently so the librarians are free to focus on instruction, collaboration with the school community, resource collection and sourcing, library events and lesson design.

Westmead Public School is a school that loves reading! It is evidenced by our borrower statistics. We are very excited to note that we have had 28370 books borrowed by our students throughout the year. This is an increase of 30% when compared to 2013. We like to think it is due to the quality programs and initiatives we have in place that aim to foster a love of reading.

This love of reading also starts from the top with our Principal Mr Mort visiting our library every Friday at lunchtime to read to our K-2 students. This initiative has proven to be very popular with our Kindergarten students who eagerly awaiting Mr Mort at the library door every Friday.

Teaching and Learning

This year continues to be a year of working out how the teacher librarian can add value to the curriculum. We aim to continue to promote information literacy through our lessons with our aim being to keep building an information literate community.

During a library lesson, students work in groups or independently, as they read and explore quality literature, research, tell digital stories, explore new search tools, read e-books, present their research results, post in blogs, produce media and collaborate using online media.

We have gathered resources to support teachers with their teaching and learning programs and collaborated with them where possible to connect what goes on in the classroom with the library teaching and learning program.

We have assisted students in a number of research projects throughout the year by introducing a variety of research tools and learning strategies.

Our future goal is to work with every classroom teacher either in the library, when planning lessons or in their classroom to help integrate information literacy skills into classroom content.

Premier’s Reading Challenge

Students once again participated in the Premier’s Reading Challenge. The challenge is a state-wide voluntary reading initiative designed to get kids reading. At Westmead Public School Kindergarten to Year 2 complete the Challenge at school during the first half of the year library lessons. Students in grades 3-6 participate in the challenge on a voluntary independent basis with the Teacher Librarians assisting students when needed. The library computers are made available for these students to complete their reading logs online. This year we had 821 students complete the challenge – 100 more students than last year. This is an awesome result and is a testament to our reading committed student body!

Budget Expenditure

Our total budget for the year was approximately $17000. This amount does not include monies collected from our annual Book Fair or other book sales throughout the year.

Our priorities this year included purchasing:
• Quality resources and books that meet the needs of the school community and support class programs, with a focus on graphic novels and junior chapter books;
• Technology items: 5 iPads, iPad charge and carry case;
• Updating seating and shelving in the library;
• Enquiry terminal desks;
• Magazine subscriptions;
• Improved Signage;
• Necessary equipment for cataloguing books and maintaining the library collection.
• More games, puzzles and puppets;

Next year we aim to become a wireless environment with more mobile devices (iPads) being used in the library and continue with various other reading initiatives going on in the library;

Community Events

This year the library also hosted several fun community events to help celebrate a love of reading, quality Australian literature as well as Book Week and Family Reading Month. These events included:

• Our annual Book Fair (we made $3752.00 which was used towards the purchases of iPads and library furniture);
• Book Picnic during May the Family Reading Month;
• National Simultaneous Storytime K-6;
• Kindergarten Orientation ‘Donate a Book’ sale;
• Fun Day ‘New Book’ sale;

Technology

Technology plays a big part in the library with lessons and initiatives designed to incorporate a variety of Web2.0 tools and technology to enhance 21 century student learning.

We have updated our Cyber safety/Digital Citizenship program and continued with communication to parents about this important area through the school newsletter. In Term 2 we also organised a Police representative to come and speak to our Year 5 & 6 students regarding Cybersafety.

The P & C have kindly continued our annual subscription to Worldbook Online. This is a very useful resource that can be used at school and at home. The website has received nearly 1,000,000 hits from our school community over the past year. This is an outstanding result and proves to be a valued resource for our school.

Changes to our Library Environment

Based on student and staff surveys, our library staff has been busy working on a number of projects throughout the year to enhance the services our library offers as well as the physical space. These include:

• Increasing our graphic novel resources in order to entice reluctant readers. This has been very popular especially with the boys in our school;
• Increasing our popular ‘series’ resources;
• Purchasing additional puzzles, puppets and games for student enjoyment during lunch time in the library;
• Enhanced signage, bean bags and seating cushions to enhance the physical use and space of the library;
• Subscribing to magazines for additional reading pleasure and providing different texts for students to read;
• Creating an interesting and vibrant library environment through displays either digitally or by using the physical space around the library;
• Culled books from various locations in the library to make way for new books;
• Refining overdue procedures;
• Refining casual teacher procedures.

Sharing the Love

• Parent Workshop held on the ‘Grab n Go’ playgroup program.
• Staff workshops were held this year for teachers on:
- How to use Worldbook Online;
- How to access library online resources;
- How to use the ‘Guided Inquiry’ approach to support students through the information search process.

We also continued to pass on helpful websites and/or information to teachers through our intranet and to parents through the fortnightly newsletter.

We hope to continue to professionally develop the library staff on the use of Web 2.0 to enhance teaching and learning programs as well as in the area of Digital Citizenship and Cyber safety.

**Library Initiatives**

Last year, we developed the ‘Grab n Go’ playgroup program. This very popular program was set up to encourage parents to read to their child as often as possible, as we believe it’s never too early to start. The program involves providing our playgroup parents with a collection of bags each containing 7 books. Parents borrow a bag for a week and read a different book to their child each night over the period of the week. The feedback we have received from our playgroup parents has been very positive with the program highly valued by these parents. This has encouraged us to work on increasing the number of ‘Grab n Go’ bags to run over two terms. Next year we aim to set up enough bags to run for the whole year.

**Library Stocktake**

Each year we conduct a library stocktake of the resources we have in the library. This is an important process in the school library as it meets the audit requirements of the NSW Department of Education and Communities.

Stock control is also an important part of library management as the results provide information on weaknesses in the collection, follow up on misplaced, damaged, missing or overdue books. As well as the accountability aspect, it is a vital component for keeping the library collection relevant to the curriculum and recreation needs of our patrons.

We have approximately 22,300 resources that were part of the 2013 stocktake process. We are proud to report that we have a loss rate of only 1.54%. This is a great achievement as it is below the Department of Education and Communities acceptable average of 4%.

**Visitors to the Library**

We had a number of visitors to our library this year from various people:

- Jolly Frog preschool staff and students as a part of getting ready for ‘big school’;
- Kindergarten 2015 Orientation parents;
- Mr Mort’s Storytime every Friday lunchtime;
- Years 3 & 4 Author Visits – Tristan Banks and Jacqueline Harvey
- Years 5 & 6 Police Visit – Cyber Safety talk

**Professional development**

Both teacher librarians continue to attend professional development in the area of using Web 2.0 tools to enhance student learning in the 21st Century. We think this is an important area as we strive to create an innovative, information literate learning space.

**Library Monitors**

This year we continued to mentor an active Library Monitor program with 35 library monitors being chosen from over 80 Year 5 & 6 applicants. Each monitor is trained and gives up one lunch time a week to assist the teacher librarians in the library. We highly value the assistance these students provide in helping our library run as efficiently as it does.

**Parent helpers**

We rely on our wonderful school community for helpers to cover books, help out in the library and when running school wide events such as our annual Book Fair. We are very grateful to all those parents that give up their time, some on a weekly basis to assist us where they can in delivering the best service possible to our school community.
Future Directions

We look forward to another year of strengthening our library program through new and exciting initiatives.

We aim to continue to provide a service that ensures information, people, tools and curriculum expectations are brought together to achieve learning goals and that we create an environment that fosters a reading culture by actively emphasising the value of reading for leisure as well as improving student learning. We hope to conduct another staff and student survey early next year to help guide our future directions.